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60th Congress | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | Document  
2d Session | No. 1545

# GEORGE W. SMITH

(Late a Representative from Illinois)

## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES



Sixtieth Congress  
First and Second Sessions

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
April 19, 1908

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES  
December 15, 1908

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## DEATH OF HON. GEORGE W. SMITH

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### PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE

MONDAY, December 2, 1907

Mr. RODENBERG. Mr. Speaker, it is with a feeling of sincere sorrow and regret I announce to the House the death of my colleague, the Hon. GEORGE W. SMITH, which occurred at his home at Murphysboro late on Saturday, November 30. Mr. SMITH had been a Member of this body eighteen years, and was just entering upon his tenth successive term when the final summons came. At some future time I shall ask that a day may be fixed when tribute may be paid to the life, character, and public services of this distinguished son of Illinois.

I now offer the following resolutions, which I ask to have read:

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved*, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. GEORGE W. SMITH, a Representative from the State of Illinois.

*Resolved*, That a committee of fifteen Members of the House, with such members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

*Resolved*, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions, and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The question was taken, and the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. If there be no objection, the temporary occupant of the chair will announce the committee provided for in the resolution. The Chair hears no objection, and the Clerk will announce the committee.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Committee to attend funeral of Hon. George W. Smith, of Illinois.*—Mr. Lorimer, Mr. Prince, Mr. Chapman, Mr. McGavin, Mr. Foster, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Rodenberg, of Illinois, Mr. Dawes, of Ohio, Mr. Chaney, of Indiana, Mr. Rucker, of Missouri, Mr. Russell, of Missouri, Mr. Maynard, of Virginia, Mr. Steenerson, of Minnesota, Mr. Broussard, of Louisiana, and Mr. Legare, of South Carolina.

Mr. RODENBERG. Mr. Speaker, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Representative SMITH, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly at 4 o'clock and 12 minutes p. m., the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, December 3, 1907.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Parkinson, its reading clerk, announced that the Senate had passed the following resolutions:

*Resolved.* That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. GEORGE W. SMITH, late a Representative from the State of Illinois.

*Resolved.* That a committee of three Senators be appointed by the Vice-President to join a committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to take order for superintending the funeral of the deceased.

*Resolved.* That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

*Resolved.* That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the Senate do now adjourn.

And that, in compliance with the foregoing, the Vice-President had appointed as said committee Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Hemenway, and Mr. McCreary.

WEDNESDAY, *March 4, 1908.*

MR. THISTLEWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the present consideration of the resolution which I send to the Clerk's desk and ask to have read.

THE SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives shall meet at 12 m. on Sunday, April 10, 1908, for the purpose of having eulogies upon the life, character, and public services of the Hon. GEORGE W. SMITH, late a Representative in Congress from the Twenty-fifth District in Illinois.

THE SPEAKER. Is there objection? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none.

The resolution was agreed to.

SUNDAY, *April 10, 1908.*

The House met at 12 o'clock noon.

The Chaplain, Rev. HENRY N. COUDEN, D. D., offered the following prayer:

O Lord, our God and our Father, who hath made us a little less than divine, and hast crowned us with glory and honor, we thank Thee for all the disclosures Thou hast made of Thyself in the great Book of Nature, the sun which shines by day, the moon and the stars which shine by night, the change of seasons, seedtime and harvest, and the wonderful adaptation of means to ends.

Surely Thou openest Thy hand and satisfieth the desire of every living thing. Especially do we thank Thee for Thy Son, Jesus Christ, His life, death, and resurrection, through whom Thou hast revealed Thine own heart to the world, which palpitates with eternal love and affection for all Thy children, and that we can never go where Thou art not. "If I ascend up into

Heaven, Thou art there; if I make my bed in the grave, behold Thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall Thy hand lead me and Thy right hand shall hold me."

We rejoice, O Lord our God, with all the world this day in the resurrection of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, which proves the strength and power of life over death.

We are met here to pay a tribute of love and respect to one who served with distinction upon the floor of this House. We thank Thee for his patriotism, for his citizenship, for his public service, and we most fervently pray for all who are bound to him by the ties of kinship, love, and affection. Let the Everlasting Arms be about them, and especially do we pray for his companion who walked by his side, sharing his joys and sorrows, his victories and defeats. Help her to look forward to the resurrection morn, which shall be for all of us, and pray we shall ever give to Thee in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Mr. MADDEN assumed the chair as Speaker pro tempore.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will read the order under which the House is in session.

The Clerk read as follows:

On motion of Mr. THISTLEWOOD, by unanimous consent,

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives shall meet at 12 m on Sunday, April 10, 1908, for the purpose of having eulogies upon the life, character, and public services of the Hon. GEORGE W. SMITH, late a Representative in Congress from the Twenty-fifth District in Illinois."

Mr. THISTLEWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have a resolution which I wish to submit.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved*, That in pursuance of the special order heretofore adopted the House now proceed to pay tribute to the memory of Hon. GEORGE W. SMITH, late a Member of this House from the State of Illinois

*Resolved*, That as a special mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House at the conclusion of the exercises to-day shall stand adjourned.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

Mr. THISTLEWOOD. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of Members who expected to speak this afternoon, but who will be deprived by other engagements. I ask unanimous consent that those gentlemen, and any others who desire, may print remarks in the Record on the life, character, and public services of Mr. SMITH.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. If there be no objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois, it will be so ordered.

There was no objection.

## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

## ADDRESS OF MR. THISTLEWOOD, OF ILLINOIS

MR. SPEAKER: On the 4th day of March last I introduced in this House a resolution by unanimous consent fixing the hour of 12 o'clock, Sunday, April 19, for the hearing of eulogies on the life, character, and public services of Congressman GEORGE W. SMITH, late a Member of this House and long an honored Representative of the Twenty-fifth District of Illinois.

It is not my purpose to make any extended remarks as to his Congressional services here, but rather, in what I shall have to say, confine myself to his youthful days, to his early struggles, and to his determination to educate himself so as to be fitted to meet the responsibilities of life.

I propose to leave for you who have served with him here so long and who know how faithful he was to his district, to his State, and to his country, the opportunity of speaking of his splendid services as a legislator.

The life and public service of Congressman SMITH were in many respects remarkable. He was of humble parentage. His father, James Smith, came from Scotland and settled in Ohio at an early date. His mother's maiden name was Agnes Morton, and she was a native of Ohio. Congressman SMITH was one of a family of ten children--six boys and four girls. He was born in Ohio August 18, 1846. His father early emigrated to Indiana, and later settled in Illinois in 1851. The parents of

Congressman SMITH were of that hardy class of pioneers who were the early settlers of Illinois, and who pushed forward before the days of the railroads and helped to make Illinois one of the great States of the American Union.

His father took up land in Wayne County, and proceeded to make for himself and family a home in what was then a comparative wilderness. His neighbors were few and far between; houses were to be built; the land was to be cleared, broken, and inclosed. In this work all would join; while the father would fell the trees the mother and children would gather and burn the brush; or, while the father would hold the plow the remainder of the family would plant the crop. Thus all contributed to the wealth and maintenance of the household.

The schools in those days in Illinois were very primitive. The children of the Smith household attended school only for a short time during the winter months, being compelled to help the mother in the house and the father in the field during the spring and summer.

Congressman SMITH when a small boy was a hard worker and a hard student. He gave early evidence of a desire to educate himself. He studied and worked, and worked and studied. He was untiring in his efforts; all the time adding to his store of knowledge.

He early learned the trade of blacksmithing, and by working on the farm and at his trade he was enabled to save up enough money to take a course in the literary department of McKendree College, at Lebanon, Ill. Later he began reading law, and graduated from the law school of Bloomington, Ind., in 1870, and was admitted in the same year to practice in Illinois by the supreme court. He located at Murphysboro, and soon took a leading place as an attorney in Jackson County and in the then Eighteenth Congressional District.

His ambition as a boy and as a man was to go to Congress, and when he had attained that ambition he seemed satisfied. In 1880 he was elected on the Republican ticket as the elector for the Eighteenth District and cast his vote for President Garfield.

In 1888 he received the Republican nomination for Congress and was elected by a handsome majority, thus reaching the goal of his ambition, and he continuously served in Congress from that time until his death, being always elected by very large majorities.

On December 29, 1884, Congressman SMITH was married to Miss M. Alice Dailey, of Murphysboro, Ill. Mrs. Smith had two brothers and one sister, all of whom, together with her parents, have passed away, she being the only surviving member of her immediate family; and it is particularly sad to relate that the next day after her husband's death her father also died, and both were buried on the same day, the father in Missouri, the husband in Illinois.

Those of you who have served with Congressman SMITH here, and who know how faithful he was to every obligation imposed on him, are better fitted than I am to speak of his official life; but my long acquaintance with him in relation to the people whom he so efficiently served gives me an insight into his character and enables me to speak of that close bond of friendship which existed at all times between him and the people of his district.

I think I may say that no complaint was too trivial for him to investigate, and no letter was ever received by him that did not receive an answer couched in the most gracious language. Congressman SMITH was not only strong in his party, but he had hosts of friends in the opposite party that voted for him as regularly as did his party friends.

I think I may say that he had no ambition for any political honors outside of his Congressional district, being content to serve his constituents, and for their interest to devote all his time.

A very strong bond of friendship existed between him and the veterans of the great war. He was their friend and they were his friends. A great part of his time was devoted to aiding the veteran soldiers and seeing that they secured the pensions due them from the Government.

Congressman SMITH died November 30, 1907, at his home in Murphysboro, where he had resided for nearly forty years, attended by his devoted wife and surrounded by his intimate friends of Murphysboro and Jackson County. Besides his wife, he left an elder sister, Mrs. Margaret Puckett, who now lives near the old homestead in Wayne County.

The people of Jackson County and of the entire district will miss Congressman SMITH. He was charitable and benevolent, gentle and kind, always cheerful, always doing something to contribute to the happiness of others. He was a devoted husband. His honesty of purpose and his integrity were well known; his life and work, public and private, were above reproach. He was successful as an attorney and gave satisfaction as a public servant, as attested by his being elected ten successive terms from his district. His constituents appreciated his services and delighted to honor him. His disposition and eagerness to serve them, regardless of politics, were well known, and therein was much of his strength. One of his chief characteristics was his attention to the little things in life, small things and kindnesses, thoughtfulness of deeds in which few men in their busy spheres of life ever take time to think of. He was thoughtful, kind, loving, and gentle as a woman. Those who knew him well best appreciated his sterling worth.

When a good man dies,  
Upon whose honored name  
There rest no flaw, no blame,  
No heartless, cruel shame,  
No tarnish to his fame,  
We can not count the cost,  
Nor reckon what we've lost,  
When a good man dies.

When a good man dies,  
Whose nobleness succeeds  
To bless the many needs  
And cheer the heart that bleeds  
With high, unselfish deeds,  
We can not count the cost,  
Nor reckon what we've lost,  
When a good man dies

When a good man dies,  
Whose name can proudly stand  
Whose memory can command  
The tribute, sweet and grand,  
An honor to the land.  
We can not count the cost,  
Nor reckon what we've lost,  
When a good man dies.

**ADDRESS OF MR. RODENBERG, OF ILLINOIS**

MR. SPEAKER: As a rule obituaries, enlogies, and epitaphs are discounted. We are too apt to employ extravagance when we speak or write of our friends whose passing we mourn. In what I have to say on this occasion of my late colleague, GEORGE W. SMITH, I shall speak with knowledge of his private character and public services, based upon a close acquaintance with his career, and I believe that my estimate of the man will not be mixed with fulsome flattery or inordinate eulogy. The looms that construct the warp and woof of time are never idle. Their tireless, incessant weaving is seen in the threads and colors that make up our several lives, and when the light of criticism is turned upon them the whole world may make the final analysis, thus discovering the defects and the beauties of the workmanship. And so in a few brief sentences I shall endeavor to epitomize the story of some of the characteristics of our friend's life as they come to me.

GEORGE W. SMITH was a native of Putnam County, Ohio, where he was born on the 18th day of August, 1846. When he was 4 years old his parents moved to Illinois. There he learned the trade of blacksmithing, but, like Elihu Burritt, the great thinker and patriot, he soon broke away from the restrictions of the anvil and forge to make his way to the professional pursuits of life. After attending the common schools he graduated from McKendree College in 1868. At this time he became ambitious to study and master the law, and following that inclination he was graduated at the University of Bloomington, Ind., 1870, being admitted to practice by the supreme court of Illinois the same year, after which he practiced his profession

in his home town of Murphysboro. He was a master in the details of organization, and one of the keenest judges of men that I have ever met; therefore his way to political paths was easy and natural.

In 1880, as an elector for his Congressional district, the old Twentieth, he cast his vote for Garfield and Arthur, and in 1888 he was elected to a seat in this body. From the Fifty-first Congress until his death, which occurred at his home November 30, 1907, he was returned at each election, thus rounding out a splendid service of over eighteen years. This long and continuous service is in itself a magnificent tribute to the estimate placed upon his worth by the constituency which he served so faithfully and so well. To aspire to membership in the Congress of the United States is an honor worthy of the ambition of any man, but to have occupied a seat in the nation's councils for almost a generation is an honor never achieved by any but the truest, the bravest, and the best.

Mr. Speaker, the crowning virtue and capstone of GEORGE W. SMITH's character was his transparent honesty and singleness. He was the very soul of honor, the personification of loyalty. The mask of an actor never fitted him. He knew naught of expediency, and he was never known to temporize. The dominant trait of his public and private life was a sincere devotion to the highest and best ideals of patriotic citizenship. In all the vicissitudes of his eventful career he followed ever the path of duty, outlined clearly and unmistakably by a conscience that was responsive always to the noblest impulses of true manhood. Men who really knew him recognized his robust virtues and admired them. They likewise discerned his faults and merged them into his manly qualities, because he wore them both upon his breast. And thus he had grown upon his friends, his constituents, and his colleagues as one who might

fitly use as his own the words which Homer puts in the mouth of the hero of his Iliad:

For I hate with perfect hatred,  
    Hate him like the gates of hell,  
Who within him one thought harbors  
    While his lips another tell.

Above all, beyond it all, our friend possessed the attributes of a man that "stood four square to all the winds that blew." Mr. Speaker, we glory in our material greatness, our unequalled empire with its 90,000,000 freemen, our growth in wealth and culture, the dazzling sweep of mechanical ingenuity and invention, our beautiful cities, and our railroads and electrical appliances. But let us not forget to keep uppermost in our thoughts that, after all, the *man* is greater, higher than them all, the man is more than the great city, more than all of the combination of modern methods and conveniences of our wonderful twentieth century, more than the ingenuity of human thought and genius will ever attain.

Our friend was a firm believer in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. In the daily walks of life he practised faith, hope, and charity, which are the divine characteristics of every manly heart. He was an ardent adherent to the beautiful teachings of Masonry, having been honored by that order many times. He had made the pleasant journey that led him through the York Rite, which is the corner stone and essence of all Masonry. He presided over his lodge several times, a record to which he pointed with much pleasure. Here he was taught and believed with his whole soul that the man who so conducts the order of his life that when the summons comes that beckons him over into the eternal morning, leaving a marked imprint for good or traits of character worthy of record, that man has not lived for himself alone, but that his

life was worth all the tears and trouble of the living. And such a life may fitly be said to be like "a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth fruit in season, whose leaves shall not wither," and whom no evil can befall, whether it be alive or dead.

Our departed colleague's veneration of and unmixed gratitude to the men who marched away during the war of the rebellion in defense of the flag and who kept that flag from dishonor were a part of his faith. He made several attempts to enter the army, but failed because of his immature age and by reason of physical infirmities. This was ever a matter of regret to him, but his interest in those who made it possible for this Government to exist was a continuing earnest one. His warm heart answered in generous sympathy the admiration that came from all over his district from soldiers, their widows and orphans. Patiently and consistently he contended for their rights, pressing with passionate interest the claims of the broken soldier and the debt owing to him by that nation which he served so well. To him the vanishing Army of Blue was full of pathetic interest. He saw them marching away until the purple hills that divide us from the Valley of the Shadow are crowded with those who became weary of the long march, at the termination of which they will again repeat the dear old war refrain, "We are coming, Father Abraham," as they enter the ever-swinging curtains of the waiting skies and meet him, the apotheosis of freedom's holy light, whose incomparable career has not been approached since the angels sang at Bethlehem and wept at Calvary's crime—their Lincoln, the world's Lincoln.

In the historic little city of Murphysboro we laid our friend away on that gray autumn day, the season that typifies the end of nature's beautiful products, amid the tears of those he loved. The solemn scenes of that sad, sad day have left an impress on

my memory which time can not efface. With bowed heads and sobbing hearts his friends and neighbors by the thousands followed the funeral cortege as it slowly wound its way through the streets of the mourning city to the little cemetery on the hill. There we left him to hurry out into the busy, throbbing, forgetful world, wondering who of us will closely follow and meet him—

Where no storms ever beat on the glittering strands,  
And the years of eternity roll

Mr. Speaker, we can not force our vision through the mists and shadows that separate us from our dead. We stand in the mysterious, solemn silence, and there is no sound save the quickened heart beat; but the cable of hope, of faith intertwined with roses, reaches "beyond the smiling and the weeping." Over it we may send our messages of love, and with the listening ear of trust that comes from the Master we can hear the response from across the shoreless sea, saying:

All is well.

### ADDRESS OF MR. RUSSELL, OF MISSOURI

MR. SPEAKER: I am informed that it is quite unusual for a new Member of this House to take part in memorial meetings of this kind, and especially where the new Member comes from a different State than that formerly represented by the deceased Member; but when the light is shed upon our past relations, I hope that my remarks at this time will not be considered inappropriate, nor my appearance an unbecoming intrusion on my part.

I have known Mr. GEORGE W. SMITH for many years, and although we lived in different States, we were in fact neighbors and friends, and in many respects our paths in life were similar and parallel. He was reared upon an Illinois farm, I upon a Missouri farm. We both entered the legal profession early in life, and for more than a quarter of a century we practiced law in adjoining circuits, but in different States.

In 1880 Mr. SMITH was a Presidential elector, and voted for Mr. Garfield, a Republican President, and in 1884, I was an elector and voted for Mr. Cleveland, a Democratic President. At the time of his death we represented in Congress adjoining districts, separated only by the Mississippi River, and while that great river separated us physically and geographically, a common interest in its improvement and welfare served to draw us nearer together officially and as friends.

Mr. SMITH and I were members of the same party of mutual friends from his district and mine, who, on board the steamboat *Dick Fader*, accompanied President Roosevelt and his party on his recent trip down the Mississippi River. This great flotilla, consisting of seventeen boats, parading in orderly procession

from St. Louis to Memphis, was, without question, the greatest and most imposing spectacle ever witnessed in the history of Mississippi River navigation, and emphasized to all the world the growing commercial importance of that mighty stream.

The several days that Mr. SMITH and I were thus thrown together on this extended trip, with frequent opportunities to personally converse, enable me to know better and to appreciate more fully his true worth and the noble characteristics of his life.

He was as gentle and sympathetic as a child, and still as determined and steadfast in his purposes as a military chieftain. He was always grateful and loyal to his friends, without regard to their influence or station in life, and above all, his life was consecrated to the faithful discharge of his duties as a public servant.

The welfare of his constituents was to him the supreme law of his official action, and it at no time suffered any infraction by any willful act of his.

These, with many other good qualities, made him strong with the people of his district. He was, in fact, invincible to all opponents in his own party, and stronger than his party in the general elections.

I remember quite well our last separation at Cairo, when he said to me that he would be very glad to meet me in Washington City at the opening of this Congress, and would take great pleasure in assisting me in any way that he could in the discharge of my new duties as a Member of this House. I thanked him then for his generous offer, and now that he is gone I shall gratefully remember this kindly expression of his friendship and esteem.

How uncertain is life! How often it is that death intervenes and interferes with the calculations of men. Instead of meet-

ing him here at the opening of this session of Congress, and seeing his familiar face and enjoying again the friendly grasp of his hand, I was on the opening day shocked by the information of his death, and was at that time appointed by the Speaker of this House a member of the committee to attend his funeral in his home State.

We witnessed there, at his home in Murphysboro, many and unmistakable evidences of the secure and warm place he held in the hearts of his people. The city was in mourning, all business was practically suspended, special trains brought hundreds of his friends from all parts of his district; his Masonic brethren came from all parts of the State; the streets about the Logan House were crowded by a sorrowing multitude, unable to gain admission or to hear the beautiful and touching tribute to his memory expressed by the Reverend Doctor Flint, an old boyhood friend, and Mr. Rodenberg, his close personal friend and former colleague in this body.

The people of his home city seemed to perfectly realize the fact that they had in his death not only lost their most distinguished citizen, but their benefactor and friend; and their presence, their tears, and the many floral offerings all testified to the sincerity of their professions and the depth of their grief.

Our friend was laid to rest in the presence of thousands of his former constituents, neighbors, fraternal associates, and friends, by the Masonic fraternity, with their beautiful funeral service at the grave, which again impressed us all with the uncertainty of this life and of the frailties of all things mortal.

Our Masonic brethren sometimes compare human life to the hourglass, and the comparison is striking and appropriate:

Behold how the grains of sand contained in this machine pass away almost imperceptibly, and yet in one short hour they are all exhausted. So wastes man. To-day he puts forth the tender buds of hope; to-morrow

he blooms and bears his honors thick upon him; the next day the chilling frosts of death destroy all, and while he thinks his greatness is still aspiring he falls like autumn leaves, to enrich our mother earth.

But we were reminded by the evergreen, deposited by hundreds of the fraternity in the grave with the mortal remains of our departed brother, that—

There is in man an immortal spark which bears a close affinity to the Supreme Architect of the universe that shall never die. This enables all good Masons to look forward with hope and confidence to a blessed immortality beyond the grave, and we doubt not that on the resurrection morn our bodies shall rise up and become as incorruptible as the soul.

**ADDRESS OF MR. CHAPMAN, OF ILLINOIS**

MR. SPEAKER: Among the men who have represented the State of Illinois in the National Congress since its admission into the Union, GEORGE W. SMITH was one of the few who had been honored by his district with a long, continued, and uninterrupted service. Had he lived to the expiration of the Sixtieth Congress, he would have been in continuous service for twenty years. During this time the nation has made more progress in the family of nations than in any other corresponding period of its history. He was born in the State of Ohio August 18, 1846. When 4 years of age his father removed to Wayne County, Ill. He was reared on a farm, attended the common schools, learned the blacksmith's trade, worked his way through McKendree College, at Lebanon, Ill., graduating in 1868, read law in a country lawyer's office at Fairfield, Ill., in his home county, and from there he went to the university at Bloomington, Ill., receiving his law degree in 1870, was admitted to practice in the same year, moved to Murphysboro, Jackson County, Ill., and began his life work as a lawyer. In the active practice of his profession he attained considerable distinction, and was regarded by his associates at the bar with that respect and confidence to which his legal abilities entitled him, and had he remained in the practice of law no doubt he would have attained a high position in the profession, for he was painstaking, careful, studious, and always watchful of every interest of his clients, and above all, was regarded as thoroughly honest in everything pertaining to his profession. The profession of law, especially in a country town, naturally leads to politics, and in the case of Mr. SMITH it was to be expected that he, sooner or later, would become a candi-

date for political honors, for he had every incentive, both by nature and surroundings, to cause him to seek the political arena as a field for his future operations.

He was a fluent talker, a splendid organizer, a clear thinker, a good judge of men, and had that very necessary and important faculty which every successful public man must possess, of surrounding himself with loyal friends. And in addition to this, the county he had chosen for his residence had been the home of John A. Logan, who became famous during the period of the civil war, both as a Congressman and volunteer soldier, and who afterwards, as a Senator from Illinois, served his country with equally as great ability in civil life as he had served it in military life. Living in these surroundings, it was natural that a man with the ability and standing which Mr. SMITH had acquired in his profession should have a desire to emulate the example of his distinguished neighbor and fellow-citizen. He was a candidate for the nomination three times on the Republican ticket for Congress before he succeeded. He was successful as a candidate for the nomination to the Fifty-first Congress, was elected, and was a Member continuously until his death. The indomitable will and persistent effort to accomplish his purpose when once he had made up his mind is clearly shown in his overcoming the handicap of three successive defeats before he attained his goal. There are but few aspirants in the political world who have shown sufficient courage and confidence in ultimate success to put forth another effort after meeting with so many reverses as he did before securing the position he sought. This phase of his character was one of the predominant features of his private and public life. When once he made up his mind that a thing was right and ought to be done, nothing swerved him from his purpose, and his life's history shows that he usually accomplished all of his undertakings.

I knew Mr. SMITH personally before he came to Congress, and was identified with him in some of his early political struggles. I was his constituent during fourteen years of his service in Congress, and I have the privilege and the honor now of representing four of the counties that formerly belonged to the district which he represented. He was my personal friend, and when I was elected to the Fifty-ninth Congress, and came here inexperienced in the methods of procedure and unacquainted with the duties which I was expected to perform, it was from Mr. SMITH, my former Congressman and friend, that I sought advice and information, and I owe a debt of gratitude to him for the many favors shown me. For he was kind and considerate and took time from his own duties to explain and show me how to accomplish those things which every Representative must learn, either by experience or by the advice of others, and which he was eminently qualified to do from his long experience and large store of information on all the subjects affecting our national life. In equipping himself for the discharge of his duties as Representative, Mr. SMITH did not confine himself alone to studying the institutions of his own country. He perhaps had traveled as extensively as any other Member of Congress. As a member of the Insular Committee he felt the necessity of visiting our island possessions, that he might acquaint himself at first hand, so that he could be better prepared to understand and legislate upon the propositions which are continually being presented in regard to them. In pursuance of this plan he had visited the Philippines, Porto Rico, Hawaii, Alaska, and the Canal Zone, and no one of my acquaintance could talk more intelligently and furnish more information upon the practical questions arising out of our island possessions than Mr. SMITH.

His extensive travels had given him a breadth of mind and a vast amount of information which enabled him to grapple with

and solve with ease the many problems which are continually arising in our national affairs. He had no personal pride in his own opinions, and was willing to receive advice and information from others, but after once making up his mind he was firm in his convictions and steadfast in his purposes. As his constituent for many years and colleague during a portion of his Congressional career, I never knew or heard of any adverse criticisms from members of his own party of any of the many votes he cast upon public questions, so careful was he to thoroughly inform himself before casting his vote.

As was evidenced by his long-continued service in Congress, he was held in high esteem by his constituents. But few men in public life were more trusted and loved by the people they represent than he, and in return he was a believer in the people, and early in his Congressional career there was adopted in his district, at his suggestion, a system of primary elections for the nomination which gave each member of his party an opportunity to express his choice for candidates. This voluntary primary adopted many years ago in his district has been, with very little amendment, lately enacted into a law which now governs the nomination for all candidates in the State of Illinois. A great many of his constituents were soldiers of the civil war, and during his entire service in Congress he was their constant, loyal, and true friend, at all times ready and willing to render them any service possible. As the "soldiers' friend," he was known and honored throughout southern Illinois, and he richly deserved the title, for few have been the men who have been able to accomplish more for the soldiers of his district than Mr. SMITH. In return for this service he was loved, honored, and trusted by the soldiers, regardless of polities, in his district, and this fact was strongly exemplified at his funeral by the long line of members of the Grand Army of the Republic which marched at the head of the funeral pro-

cession, following to his last resting place one who, though not their comrade, had earned the right to honorary burial as such by his unselfish efforts and untiring energy in their behalf.

In his private life he was genial, hospitable, and generous. He was always ready to lend a helping hand to the unfortunate, and no one ever appealed to him in time of trouble who did not receive his advice and assistance. His heart was kind and sympathetic, and it seemed impossible for him to say "No" to any worthy one appealing to him in adversity. He died poor in the possession of the goods of this world, but rich in the esteem of his fellow-men, to which his high standard of living and conscientious devotion to truth and justice entitled him. His word was his bond and was so taken and accepted both in his political life and in his dealings with his fellow-man. I was a member of the committee of the House that attended his burial at his home in Murphysboro, Ill. A profound sorrow was over the little city. The business houses were closed out of respect for the occasion, and a large number of his constituents, friends, and neighbors gathered to pay a last sad tribute to his mortal remains. From every county in his district came large delegations, all of them his personal friends and knew him well, to show the high esteem in which he was held by all of his constituents. He was buried under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity, of which he had been a devoted and honored member for many years, and the large number of his brethren of this order which gathered to pay the last sad rites to his memory attested the high standing in which he was held by the fraternity. May his memory ever be fresh in the affections of his friends and of the people who honored and loved him as their Representative and whom he served and loved so well.

**ADDRESS OF MR. LOWDEN, OF ILLINOIS**

MR. SPEAKER: Again we are met to pay our tribute of affection and respect to a departed friend.

When we separated last spring, GEORGE W. SMITH had as good a right to expect many years of useful life as any of us who are here to-day. But suddenly Death met him face to face, and he went out from our midst, leaving many heavy hearts. I knew him well and loved him much.

The district he represented was the old Logan district. It was from this district that John A. Logan enlisted in the war with Mexico. It was from this district that Colonel Logan, resigning his seat in Congress, set out in the early days of the civil war on that career which was to lead him to immortal fame as the most illustrious citizen-soldier of the century. Under the tutelage of that great man GEORGE W. SMITH received his first lessons in polities. It was to be expected, then, that fidelity in all relations should be, as it was, a distinguishing quality of his life.

Southern Illinois is remarkable in this, that more than anywhere else, so far as I know, the Puritan of New England and the cavalier of the South met face to face, and in the rivalry between them only the best qualities of each survived.

The virtues of the North and the virtues of the South, mingling, produced a well-nigh perfect type of man. This people is patriotic in the extreme, but always sane. They are brave, but modest. They are hearty, but unaffected. They are hospitable, but simple. They are shrewd, but fair. If you would win their affections, you must first gain their respect. A more

interesting people can nowhere be found. And when you have once visited southern Illinois you will not be content until you return. And when you have gone back you will feel at home.

Modest beyond most, it was given only to the family and closest friends of GEORGE W. SMITH to know his manly worth. But he who once was fortunate enough to gain his friendship could count on him in all times, whether of good report or bad report. Warm-hearted and loyal, like the great constituency he represented here so faithfully and well for a generation, he will be greatly missed in this House and in Illinois.

And what words of sympathy may we speak to the devoted wife, who mourns him most of all? I know that I utter the sentiment of all his friends here and his friends at home when I say that she has been much in our thoughts since the separation came. We know that any spoken words of ours can not assuage her grief, and that only from on high can comfort come to her wounded heart. May the Father of us all be very tender to the sorrowing companion of his earthly days. May she find peace in the glorious hope of a reunion beyond the grave.

Not affecting brilliancy of speech, but relying upon industry and good common sense, Representative SMITH served his people and his country well.

I have been many times in his district. He had an affectionate hold upon his constituents which nothing could shake loose. He trusted them and they believed in him. When the hour struck and he passed from mortal sight, the people of southern Illinois mourned the loss not only of their distinguished Representative, but of their friend as well.

**ADDRESS OF MR. GRAFF, OF ILLINOIS**

MR. SPEAKER: My late colleague, Hon. GEORGE W. SMITH, who passed away at his home in Murphysboro, Ill., in the first days of the present session of this Congress, preceded me as a Member of this body by three Congresses, being first elected in 1888 to the Fifty-first Congress, making ten successive Congresses to which he had been elected from southern Illinois.

I knew him well and met him almost daily during the last twelve years when this House was in session. Among the 391 Representatives here there remain but 6 who equal or exceed in terms of service that of my lamented colleague. They are Speaker Cannon, from my own State, with seventeen terms; Representative Bingham, of Pennsylvania, fifteen terms; Representative Payne, of New York, twelve terms; Representative Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, eleven terms; Representative Hepburn, of Iowa, eleven terms; and Representative Sherman, of New York, ten terms. For a period of twenty years he survived the mutations of polities, the rivalries of political associates, factional strife, the unavoidable disappointment of followers, as well as the attack of the opposing party. All this is necessarily involved in such a long and uninterrupted legislative career. The Representative in Congress is the only national official chosen directly by the people. His constituency is not too large to come in personal contact with him and to form an independent individual estimate of his character and ability.

His brief term of two years brings him back quickly to learn the people's latest mandate, their opinions, the objects of their present thought, their problems, and their difficulties. Custom

has added to his legislative duties that of being the people's agent with reference to their individual matters with the Government, thus bringing him into daily contact with them in even their private affairs. Mr. SMITH had passed the stage of accidental preferment. He had withstood the eliminating and inexorable test of time, with all the trials common to such an experience. That he surmounted these difficulties through the years is of deep significance when we remember that this affirmative answer comes from an intelligent constituency of almost 200,000 people.

For eighteen years prior to his first election to Congress the people of his section knew Mr. SMITH as a lawyer at Murphysboro, and had nominated and elected him in 1880 as a Republican Presidential elector. They knew him intimately and well and had the very best opportunity to measure the elements of his character and ability. Therefore their persistent support of and loyalty to him through a fifth of a century is a higher tribute to his character and noble qualities of mind and heart than the most eloquent panegyric that could be uttered here by his friends and colleagues.

Mr. SMITH served at various times during his service here upon the following committees: Claims, War Claims, Militia, the Post-Office and Post-Roads, and Insular Affairs, and was for many years the chairman of the Committee on Private Land Claims. He devoted himself very industriously to the work upon his committees, where, as we all know, most of the real work of this House is done. Being for many years on the sub-committee of the Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads, which framed the post-office appropriation bills, he had to do with the appropriation made for the trial of rural free delivery, and he took a just pride in being one of the earliest supporters of this service while it was yet in its experimental

stage. He was also an earnest advocate of penny postage, and first introduced a bill for that purpose in 1902 and continued to introduce the same measure each Congress until his death, presenting from time to time numerous petitions from over the country in behalf of that movement. While on this committee he visited Australia and contributed on his return to the bringing about of the parcels-post convention between the United States and Australia.

While upon the Committee on Insular Affairs, his last important committee, he felt it his duty to make a trip to the Philippines and Porto Rico that he might be better equipped for his duties in that behalf.

Mr. SMITH also visited Cuba, the Isthmus of Panama since our operations in the construction of the canal, Alaska, and almost every part of the mainland of the United States. He also broadened his observations of the world by a trip to Europe, and endeavored to prepare himself as best he could for the work which devolved upon him as a Representative of the people. Upon his election to Congress he gave up the practice of his profession of the law and devoted himself entirely to his official duties. He secured three appropriations at different times for the national cemetery at Mound City, in his district, and through his efforts had allotted from time to time, out of the general appropriation for the Mississippi River, an aggregate of at least a half million dollars for the carrying out of projects along that portion of the river within the boundaries of his district, where they were properly needed.

He was an earnest advocate of the popular primary system, and was three times nominated by a primary called by the Congressional committee of his district before any primary law had been passed by the State of Illinois. Mr. SMITH was only 15 years old when the civil war began; nevertheless he offered him-

self as a volunteer soldier before that contest closed, but was rejected because of his then physical condition. He took great interest in the Federal soldiers and their widows when their claims were pending in the Pension Bureau or before Congress in the shape of legislation, and in his district I am sure that they will remember his helpfulness for many a year yet to come.

He loved his country and was proud of its history and confident of its glorious and successful future. Our colleague was a warm-hearted, loyal, manly man, and had no associate on the Illinois delegation who was not his friend and well-wisher. Rancor, jealousy, meanness seemed to have no place in his soul. He speedily forgot a slight or injury, but ever remembered a friendly obligation. His honesty and sincerity were both unquestioned. His home life was congenial and delightful; but whether at home or elsewhere, his kindly spirit was always manifest, leaving in companionship never an impression that rankled, never a cut that hurt. At home this broad and generous bearing must have disarmed and conquered many an enmity and won many a fast friend and adherent. The people adhered to him and were drawn by him. Were they mistaken? I am sure they were not, for they knew him and correctly interpreted his character and life.

This modest colleague has passed away. He was not given to heralding his own accomplishments, either here or at home; much less was he accustomed to enlarging upon them. But now that he has gone, it has seemed to me that he would prefer a truthful narration of his faithful work and efforts for his home community and his nation to stilted phrase and fulsome laudation.

In the midst of the activity of his career he immediately stepped from this life into the beyond. While we regret his departure, yet, for the consolation of his faithful wife and

friends, was he not fortunate in not being compelled to linger just outside the portals, through protracted and weary months of pain and helplessness, a prisoner to disease, craving death to free him? God only knows, but since Providence had determined that his earthly work had ceased and the time of his departure was at hand, I prefer to believe that an infinite and divine love summoned his spirit thence without a probationary period of pain.

**ADDRESS OF MR. FULLER, OF ILLINOIS**

MR. SPEAKER: I wish to pay my tribute of respect and esteem to and of affection for my late colleague, GEORGE W. SMITH. If these services were to be held in his home district in Illinois, there would be no building large enough to accommodate his friends who would desire to be present. A man is best known at home. I am not one of those who believe that the prophet is not without honor save in his own land. At his own home and among his own neighbors he is best known. There, if he is worthy, he is appreciated at his full worth, and there GEORGE W. SMITH was best known and most appreciated. For the people of his district he labored in season and out of season. He loved his home and appreciated his home people, and his strength and his political prestige were based on the fact that he was always for his home people and for their interests. No Congressman who ever held a seat on this floor was more faithful to or more diligent in looking after the wants and the interests of the people of his district than GEORGE W. SMITH.

Green be the turf above thee,  
Friend of my better days,  
None know thee but to love thee,  
None named thee but to praise.

The people of his district will miss him, and as the years go by will know that in him they have lost a true and devoted friend. Of him they will say:

While memory bids me weep thee,  
Nor thoughts nor words are free,  
The grief is fixed too deeply  
That mourns a man like thee

I have been profoundly impressed with the great number of our colleagues here who have been called from life during our term of service. We are reminded, oh, so often, that neither great nor small can avoid the call of the grim monstrosity, Death. Our fathers met him and were vanquished. We shall each in our turn meet him and pass on; to a better or worse condition we know not. We must all cross the deep, dark river; how soon, we know not. What is on the other side we do not know. We can only hope that life is eternal and that over there somewhere we shall meet the friends gone before us.

The thoughts we are thinking our fathers did think,  
From the death we are shrinking our fathers did shrink,  
To the life we are clinging our fathers did cling,  
But it speeds from us all like the bird on the wing

We bid our friend farewell. We shall see him no more.

We pass; the path that each man trod  
Is dim, or will be dim, with weeds,  
What fame is left for human deeds  
In endless age? It rests with God.

### ADDRESS OF MR. CHANEY, OF INDIANA

MR. SPEAKER

I have seen man in the pride of his strength. He walked, he leaped, he ran, he rejoiced in that he was more excellent than the rose. Again I have seen him, and behold, life hath departed from him and the breath from out of his nostrils.

We all realize the fact that death is in the world, but what a gracious thing it is to know that men are remembered for what they have done. In the last week or two in this House we have supposed that there is not room enough on the earth for all of us, if we were to accept the appearances, but when there comes a time to us all, which must come to everyone, whatever may be our political belief and whatever may have been our political contest, whatever may be the religious belief which we hold, we, after all, come together, American citizens, bone of one bone and flesh of one flesh, recognizing the eternal mandate that, after all, we are brethren and that we appreciate each other.

Times have changed very greatly in the years in which we have had our experiences. We live in a day of enlightened religion. Hell is not as large as it used to be. Seventy-five years or so ago it was decidedly the largest section of the universe. Everybody went there except our own set. Now very few are going. The soldiers of truth have come home from the wars covered o'er with the smoke and dust of battle, but they are marching beneath arches of flowers erected by loving and sympathetic hands. I have an abiding faith in the immortality of the soul. I believe that this earth is only the nursery from which there is to be transplanted the trees which are to blossom

and bear their fruit in another world. I believe, therefore, that the work that we may do here is worthy of appreciation by everyone, and that each one as he passes hence is entitled to that respectful consideration and that grateful word of remembrance to which all men, honored for the work they have done here, are entitled. Indiana and Illinois are very closely related in a business way as well as by geographical boundaries.

The citizens of Illinois are very closely related to those of Indiana. Indiana is able to appreciate the greatness of that great State. Indiana had a hand in the education of GEORGE W. SMITH. He graduated in the law department of the Indiana University. Above all, however, he was an American citizen who believed in his country, believed in his fellow-men. He served his people well at home and he served his people well here. It is a splendid thing, indeed, to know that those who are most intimately acquainted with him, who associated with him almost daily through his life, can speak the words of praise that they do, and speak them with a heartfelt appreciation of what he was. I was one of the committee which went out to his funeral, and my heart was filled with gratitude indeed to see that large assemblage of people in his home city, to see them tenderly cover his coffin with flowers and as tenderly go out to the city of the dead.

He was our fellow-citizen, he was an Illinoisian, but he was an American. State lines do not encompass the privileges of men in the United States. I glory in the fact that in this land of liberty one man is only better than another if he behaves himself better. I am glad to know that that was the guiding star of GEORGE W. SMITH. He appreciated his opportunities, he embraced his responsibilities, he acted up to the dignity of American civilization, and went out of life to meet his God, having served his country well. It is not for us to judge faults of men, for if the faults of human kind were all unpardonable

sins there would be no hereafter, but on this resurrection day, under this beautiful sky with this bright sun, we can appreciate that it is not only an appropriate day to pronounce a eulogy on a well-spent life, but it is also an appropriate day to look forward to that immortality which is given to all those who remember the Creator of the Universe.

**ADDRESS OF MR. DE ARMOND, OF MISSOURI**

MR. SPEAKER: GEORGE W. SMITH served long and creditably in this House. His people commissioned him for still longer service. Death and not his constituents terminated his career. He retained the confidence of his people to the end. They knew him well, and he could not so long and so firmly hold their respect and esteem except upon merit. Their steadfast support is strongest evidence of his worth.

Life has its own unobtrusive reciprocity. The people sustained Representative SMITH, and Representative SMITH strove manfully to serve them, not only officially, but also personally. He never tired of the labor of love—and such it surely was in his case—performed throughout his entire career, in doing for his constituents collectively and for thousands of them individually whatever their wants suggested and his ability with his opportunities could accomplish.

His admiration for and pride in the people who honored him and whom he served was very great. His people were ever uppermost in his mind. He was a diligent and faithful representative of a great constituency, and those whom he served stood manfully between him and political danger.

Faithfulness to the people who put us in high places surely is admirable, and thus faithful was our friend. The Congressman who serves well his immediate constituency almost always serves his country well. On the other hand, the Member who serves special interests is a bad representative of any American constituency, as well as a bad lawmaker for the Republic. A

special interest is none the less a special interest because located in one's own district, and its servant in the Congress of our country is none the less an enemy of good government because his home and the home of his master are in the same city or county. To the honor of GEORGE W. SMITH it can be truthfully said that the people—the many and not the few—appealed to his sense of justice and of gratitude, and to them his services were gladly given.

It is no secret among the friends of Mr. SMITH that he was not entirely satisfied with his treatment in late years in the make-up of committees. But if he was proud and felt keenly the sting of what he esteemed a wrong suffered in the household of political friends, he was also sensitive, and pride and sensitiveness combined to make him silent.

He was a good friend and a manly antagonist. He was every man's friend, and the enemy of no one. He was too kindly in disposition and too broad to harbor hatred or ill will. He was a true man. So let his faults rest in the grave with his body, while we cherish the memory of his many good traits and good deeds.

**ADDRESS OF MR. STEENERSON, OF MINNESOTA**

MR. SPEAKER: We have met to-day to pay fitting tribute to the character and public services of a distinguished Member of this House and a faithful servant to the people. I first met Mr. SMITH at the beginning of the Fifty-eighth Congress, where we happened to be both assigned to the same committee, the Committee on the Militia. Soon after a vacancy occurred in the chairmanship, and Mr. SMITH, who ranked me, very promptly sent word that, having another chairmanship, he did not desire the place, but advised me to assert my claim as the next one in order. Being a new Member I did not get the place at that time, but I always felt grateful to Mr. SMITH for his kindness and consideration in the matter. When Congress adjourned for the holidays in December, 1906, we both joined a party of Congressmen for a trip to Panama, and on this delightful trip of three weeks we were together a great deal, both on shipboard and ashore, and I found him a most delightful companion. He had been reared on the frontier and seen his own immediate neighborhood advance from a wilderness to one of the richest and most prosperous agricultural sections of the whole country. He knew the hardships and sacrifices of pioneer life, and his sympathy with the people was natural and genuine. He was not only a well-read man generally, but had traveled extensively in his own country as well as nearly every country on the globe. He was a close observer and an independent and original thinker. He had studied social and political questions abroad, and no doubt to this fact was largely due his constant interest in the extension and betterment of the mail service in our own country.

To hear him tell of his travels and observations was not only a continuous source of information, but a delight.

Of him it might be truly said:

He foreign countries knew; but they were known  
Not for themselves, but to advance his own.

Mr. SMITH was first elected to Congress in 1888, and was successively reelected nine times. He served in the Fifty-first and Fifty-second Congresses on the Committees on Territories and Claims, and in the Fifty-eighth and Fifty-ninth Congresses he was chairman of the Committee on Private Land Claims. His most important service, however, was on the Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads, of which he was an active and influential member for ten years, from 1893 to 1903. He was one of the originators of the rural free-delivery service, in which fact he always took a just pride. His last speech on the floor of the House, February 10, 1907, was devoted to this subject, and he reviewed the origin and growth of the rural free-delivery service from the beginning and its beneficent influence upon the people.

The State of Illinois has in the past furnished more than its share of great names to illuminate the pages of our country's history. Illinois is still furnishing at least her share of the illustrious statesmen who are now in the present guiding our Ship of State, and in such a galaxy it is difficult to shine; but though the services of these may be more conspicuous they could not excel in high conception of honor and fidelity to duty the more humble career of our departed and honored friend.

Honor and shame from no condition rise;  
Act well your part, there all the honor lies.

That the people whom he had so long and faithfully served appreciated him and loved him was most pathetically shown by the large outpouring of the people and universal evidences of grief on the occasion of his funeral at his old home.

He died in the fullness of his prime, and in his death the people lost a faithful friend and wise legislator. He has gone to—

The undiscovered country, from whose bourn  
No traveler returns—

And whose secrets we may not know, except by faith in love divine; but this we know, that earth has received into its final embrace few men more beloved than was GEORGE W. SMITH.

### ADDRESS OF MR. MADDEN, OF ILLINOIS

MR. SPEAKER: Of the public characteristics of our lamented colleague and of his legislative achievements other Members have spoken in high praise. It was not my privilege to serve long with him in this honored body, and I had therefore no personal opportunity to study from close range his public undertakings. I did enjoy, though, a very close personal acquaintance with him, and it is a sincere satisfaction to me to be able to say, in paying tribute to his memory, that he was one of the most lovable gentlemen that I have ever known. I can bear testimony to his high personal character and to his warm-hearted manliness. He never failed when opportunity offered to do for a friend some needed kindness, and he was always ready to fight with all his might for any cause in which he enlisted.

Of his many virtues honesty and truthfulness were the most pronounced, and it was these sterling qualities which won for him the respect and the esteem of his friends and acquaintances.

It was not necessary for him to set up proof in substantiation of his positive assertions. His word was as good as his bond, and when he declared to one who knew him as I did that he would do thus or so, it was all but done.

Like most other men, he had some minor faults, but they were not grievous ones.

Best men are born of faults and are better it is said for having been a little bad.

So spoke the great Shakespeare, and in those words I believe he told a great truth. I have never known a so-called "fault-

less man" to do for himself, his friends, or his country any real good, but the faults of our lamented friend were, when compared with his many virtues and graces, rendered nugatory if not entirely undiscernible.

GEORGE W. SMITH, like most men who come to Congress, and who amount to anything after they come here, learned early in life that the pathway to success is not strewn with roses. His struggle for an education was severe. He made many sacrifices that he might attain success, but he did succeed. I am told that his clear understanding of the principles of jurisprudence, his ready wit, and his forceful, though generous and magnanimous, character, made him a formidable competitor of the most distinguished members of the bar in his section of the State from which so many illustrious men have come.

For eighteen years Mr. SMITH was an honored and useful Member of this body. He was not a great orator, nor did he grapple with the weightier matters of state. He was, however, an indefatigable worker, and by hard study and close application he acquired a fund of information which enabled him intelligently to examine into and understand the many complicated questions which a Member of Congress is required to pass upon in order that by his action and his aid the interests of his constituents and his country may best be conserved.

By the death of our beloved colleague the old soldiers of his district sustain a loss that can only be expressed in tears. To their cause he was more devoted than he was to his own interests.

There never was a time in his public career when he would not have sacrificed his last dollar or exerted his greatest efforts to do for some needy soldier an act of kindness, but while he was partial to the old soldier, and while it always seemed easier for him to come to their assistance than to do aught else, his





## PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE

TUESDAY, December 3, 1907.

A message from the House of Representatives communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. GEORGE W. SMITH, late a Representative from the State of Illinois, and transmitted resolutions of the House thereon.

The message also announced that the Speaker had appointed Mr. Lorimer, Mr. Prince, Mr. Chapman, Mr. McGavin, Mr. Foster, Mr. McDermott, and Mr. Rodenberg, of Illinois; Mr. Dawes, of Ohio; Mr. Chaney, of Indiana; Mr. Rucker and Mr. Russell, of Missouri; Mr. Maynard, of Virginia; Mr. Steener-son, of Minnesota; Mr. Broussard, of Louisiana; and Mr. Legare, of South Carolina, members of the committee on the part of the House to attend the funeral of the deceased.

Mr. CUTLOM. Mr. President, I ask that the resolutions from the House of Representatives in reference to the death of my late colleague in the House, Hon. GEORGE W. SMITH, may be laid before the Senate.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate resolutions from the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

December 2, 1907.

*Resolved*, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. GEORGE W. SMITH, a Representative from the State of Illinois.

*Resolved*, That a committee of fifteen Members of the House, with such members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

*Resolved*, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provi-

sions of these resolutions, and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Mr. CULLOM. Mr. President, I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk and ask unanimous consent for their immediate consideration.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The resolutions submitted by the Senator from Illinois will be read by the Secretary.

The resolutions were read, considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of the Hon. GEORGE W. SMITH, late a Representative from the State of Illinois.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three Senators be appointed by the Vice-President to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to take order for superintending the funeral of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the Senate, under the second resolution just adopted, the Senator from Illinois [Mr. HOPKINS], the Senator from Indiana [Mr. HEMENWAY], and the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCREARY].

Mr. CULLOM. As a further mark of respect to the memory of my late colleague, I move that the Senate adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; and (at 2 o'clock and 33 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Wednesday, December 4, 1907, at 12 o'clock meridian.

THURSDAY, May 28, 1908.

Mr. CULLOM. Mr. President, I desire to give notice that on December 15, 1908, my colleague and I will present for consideration resolutions commemorative of the life and character of

the Hon. GEORGE W. SMITH, late a Member of the House of Representatives from the State of Illinois.

TUESDAY, December 15, 1908.

Mr. CULLOM. Mr. President, I ask that the resolutions of the House of Representatives on the death of the Hon. GEORGE W. SMITH be laid before the Senate.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the resolutions of the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

April 19, 1908.

*Resolved*, That in pursuance of the special order heretofore adopted, the House now proceed to pay tribute to the memory of Hon. GEORGE W. SMITH, late a Member of this House from the State of Illinois.

*Resolved*, That as a special mark of respect to the memory of the deceased and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House at the conclusion of the exercises to-day shall stand adjourned.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Mr. CULLOM. Mr. President, I offer the following resolutions.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The resolutions submitted by the Senator from Illinois will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Senate expresses its sorrow on account of the death of Hon. GEORGE W. SMITH, late a Member of the House of Representatives from the State of Illinois.

*Resolved*, That the business of the Senate be suspended in order that fitting tribute be paid to his memory.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary communicate a copy of these resolutions to the House of Representatives and to the widow and family of the deceased.

## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

### ADDRESS OF MR. CULLOM, OF ILLINOIS

MR. PRESIDENT: I ask the attention of the Senate while I submit some remarks appropriate to the occasion, suggested by the resolutions just read.

We are called upon, according to the usual custom in the Senate, to pay our tribute of respect to the memory of a deceased colleague of the other House, GEORGE W. SMITH, late a Representative in Congress from the State of Illinois.

The death roll in Congress during the past few years has been unusually large, and we are again reminded that—

In the midst of life we are in death

GEORGE W. SMITH was born in Putnam County, Ohio, on August 18, 1846. When but a child he came with his parents to Illinois and settled on a farm in Wayne County, in the southern portion of the State. His early life was the ordinary hard life of a farm boy whose parents were in the most moderate circumstances.

In his early years he learned the trade of a blacksmith, and at the same time attended the common country school. Being ambitious to advance to the higher walks of life, and realizing early the value of education, on his own initiative he commenced his studies in the literary department of McKendric College at Lebanon, Ill., from which he graduated in 1868. Determining to have a profession, to rise above his humble trade as a blacksmith, he took to the law, and entered the law department of the university at Bloomington, one of the earliest and best law institutions in the State, from which he was graduated with

honors in 1870 and was admitted to the bar during that year. Like the majority of the young lawyers in that portion of the State, he early took an interest in politics, and was a presidential elector and voted for Garfield in 1880. He was always an uncompromising Republican, and was ready at all times to defend and fight for his party, its principles, and policies. For years he devoted close attention to the practice of the law, and as a lawyer possessed far more than ordinary ability, and when elected to Congress his firm enjoyed one of the largest law practices in that portion of Illinois.

GEORGE W. SMITH served in Congress continually from March 4, 1889, until his death, having been elected to the Fifty-first Congress, and reelected to the Fifty-second, Fifty-third, Fifty-fourth, Fifty-fifth, Fifty-sixth, Fifty-seventh, Fifty-eighth, Fifty-ninth, and Sixtieth, and had he lived he could have continued to represent his district as long as he wished to serve. His district was an interesting one. It was the district so long the home of that foremost volunteer soldier and officer of the civil war—Gen. John A. Logan, than whom there was no braver and better soldier, and himself a politician of no mean order. The Logan district, the district represented by Mr. SMITH for so many years, I suppose contains more ambitious politicians than any district in the State. That he was able to retain his place in Congress for so many years proves that he was a shrewd, astute politician. I regarded him as one of the shrewdest politicians in that portion of Illinois. He was a great judge of men and was rarely mistaken in his friends. He had a splendid organization, composed of the best men and politicians in the district, and although he had a sharp contest every time he came up for reelection no one was ever successful in defeating him. He had been unusually successful in his district in securing the nomination from term to term, and ambitious men desirous to represent the district in Congress

had become disinclined to become candidates of late years, feeling that Mr. SMITH could and would defeat any man who should become a candidate. As the years went by he seemed to grow stronger among the people of his district, and he was devoted to their interests, never tiring, always ready to respond to the call of a constituent, and the calls were many and frequent, that portion of the State being filled with the gallant survivors of the civil war.

The old soldiers who fought for the country and the flag know and appreciate the men who most sympathize with them, and veterans in his district never failed to manifest their appreciation of Mr. SMITH's friendship for them.

Under our constitutional form of government, the Senators and Representatives bring from their several States and districts the sentiments and desires of the people they represent touching national affairs and legislation, and by so doing a consensus of public opinion of every section is voiced in our legislative action as nearly as may be, and this is more true in the House, whose Members come closer to and represent the people directly, than it is in the Senate, representing, as we do, the sovereign States. In his legislative action Mr. SMITH always sought to represent as nearly as he could the views of his people, and this made him strong at home. In a popular form of government such as ours, it is the duty of Representatives and Senators to represent and carry out the wishes of the people, so far as the Constitution will permit. Mr. SMITH's service in Congress was at a time when the country had just passed through a great civil war, when only earnest and determined men were most active in political affairs.

GEORGE W. SMITH was my warm, personal friend for many years, and I am indebted to him for years of loyal and active support. He was a man of much power when aroused, and demonstrated his power when goaded and pressed hard by his

enemies. He was true to his friends, honest and generous in his sentiments, sincere in his convictions, and strong in his adherence to what he believed to be right.

On the 30th of November, 1907, after a brief illness, attended by a beloved wife and surrounded by devoted friends, he passed away at his old home in Murphysboro. His labors, struggles, and conflicts ended, his work was done; he had finished his course.

**ADDRESS OF MR. CURTIS, OF KANSAS**

MR. PRESIDENT: I desire to add a word or two as a tribute to the memory of GEORGE W. SMITH. I knew him well, not only having served with him from the Fifty-third to Fifty-ninth Congress, inclusive, but a few years ago made a trip to the Philippines with a party of which he and his good wife were also members, and on this trip I became intimately acquainted with him and learned of his many good qualities.

He was a successful man on the farm, in the blacksmith shop, in the legal profession, and he was a faithful, hardworking, and successful Member of the House of Representatives. That his people had faith in him is evidenced by the fact that they kept him in Congress for nearly twenty years, and had he lived, he no doubt would have continued to represent them for many more years. He was well equipped for the service in the House; he knew his district well; he loved the people who had honored him, and was ever ready to aid and assist them. He served in the House long enough to be understood by those who were in the public service; he earned high regard by his earnest study of great questions and by the independence and wisdom he displayed.

No taint of corruption or dishonor ever stained his name, and it is therefore befitting that we should record here our affection for him and our appreciation for his honorable and useful life.

### ADDRESS OF MR. HOPKINS, OF ILLINOIS

MR. PRESIDENT: Among the public men from Illinois whom death has claimed in recent years no one has held a better place in the affections of his constituents than GEORGE W. SMITH, late a Member of the House of Representatives from the twenty-fifth district of Illinois.

My acquaintance with Mr. SMITH began when he came to the House of Representatives as a Member of the Fifty-first Congress. I had preceded him as a Member of the House by several years, and I shall never forget the favorable impression that he made upon me as he took his place among the Members of that great legislative body. He was a picture of manly beauty and was well endowed mentally. He was representing a constituency that once had been honored by the service of Gen. John A. Logan, a constituency that demanded much from their Representative. He continued to represent his district in the House of Representatives for twenty years, and during that entire period steadily grew in the affections and esteem of the good people of southern Illinois.

MR. SMITH was a lawyer by profession, and for many years prior to his entering political life had made his home at Murphysboro, Ill., and had attained by his ability and industry a leading position among the lawyers of his section of the State. He was a ready and eloquent speaker, a logical reasoner, and a careful student of the law. Had he not been diverted from his profession into political life he would have undoubtedly been ranked as one of the leading lawyers of the State. He had a natural aptitude, however, for polities. Murphysboro was once

the home of Gen. John A. Logan and the center of political life. Mr. SMITH thus early was brought in contact with the leading men politically in his section of the State. The favorable impression that he made upon them made it very easy for him to become their Representative in Congress.

He had a few fierce battles to maintain his position during his twenty years of service in Congress, but on each of those occasions he displayed the ability, the nerve, and the dash that not only overcame all opposition but strengthened him in the love and esteem of his constituents. I think at the time of his death he was never held in higher regard by those who had followed his fortunes for twenty years. His work in Congress was marked by a steady growth. He served on many of the important committees of the House of Representatives and on each of them displayed the industry and ability that had marked his early career as a lawyer.

Mr. SMITH was a lover of good literature and a man who had traveled extensively in his own and foreign countries. His reading and his travels had made him a broad-minded, cultured gentleman. In private life he was a genial and companionable man. His loss is deplored not only by his personal friends, but by a constituency that will long remember his services and honor his name.

Mr. President, I ask for the adoption of the resolutions submitted by my colleague.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

Mr. HOPKINS. As a further mark of respect to the memory of Mr. SMITH, I move that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and (at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Wednesday, December 16, 1908, at 12 o'clock meridian.

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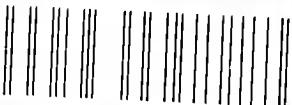








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